

REMARKS

The Office Action dated November 17, 2003 notes that claims 1-25 are pending in the application. The Applicant hereby amends claims 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 14, 15, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24. The amendment are formal in nature and are submitted to address the claim objections and formal rejections under 35 USC §112. Therefore, no new matter has been added. Claims 1-25 remain pending.

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating the allowability of all pending claims, provided that the Applicant addresses the claim objections and formal rejections under 35 USC §112. The Applicant respectfully submits that the enclosed amendments properly address each of the outstanding objections and rejections. Thus, claims 1-25 are allowable in their present form.

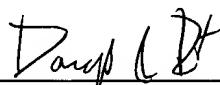
The Applicant notes that the Examiner did not enter the substitute specification filed on June 28, 2003 to address objections contained in the previous office action because it did not conform to 37 CFR 1.125(b) and (c). In response, the Applicant hereby resubmits a marked-up and a clean version of the substitute specification that conforms to 37 CFR 1.125(c). In addition, the Applicant hereby provides, on a separate sheet, a statement under 37 CFR 1.125(b) indicating that the Applicant has not entered new matter in the substitute specification.

In view of the aforesaid, the Applicant respectfully submits the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 3/26/04

By:


Douglas S. Rupert
Reg. No. 44,434
Attorney for Applicant

SEYFARTH SHAW LLP
55 E. Monroe St., Suite 4200
Chicago, IL 60603-5803
Telephone: (312) 269-8504
Facsimile: (312) 269-8869
e-mail: drupert@seyfarth.com